



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Public Information Officer  
José Ysea, 858-573-1291

## ***ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT*** **NEWS RELEASE**

### **CITY ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO HAVE A GREEN HALLOWEEN**

***TIPS INCLUDE FUN THINGS  
YOU CAN DO AS A FAMILY***

The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department (ESD) encourages residents to consider some of these helpful hints to have a happy and GREEN Halloween. ESD reminds everyone to continue using these seasonal suggestions as part of their daily commitment to help in preserving the environment.

#### **GREEN HALLOWEEN TIPS:**

TIP #1- Have your little ghosts and ghouls carry their Halloween take in reusable bags or containers they can keep and use afterwards. According to the EPA, over 380 million plastic bags and more than 10 million paper bags are used each year in the U.S. alone. Reusable bags are also better as plastic and paper bags can tear and spill a child's goodies.

TIP #2 - Make your own Halloween costumes instead of buying something you will discard after the first use. By going to a thrift shop or yard sale and using some creativity, you and your child can design something with your own personal touch.

TIP #3 - Give your neighborhood goblins eco-friendly treats they can gobble up. Think not only healthy, but consider candy or treats with little or no packaging that can't be recycled. The treats can be small boxes of crayons, colored pencils, cool-shaped erasers or other inexpensive items you can find at your nearest dollar store.

TIP #4 - Instead of driving around town to other neighborhoods; stay close to home for trick-or-treating. Walking is great exercise and reduces fuel consumption and air pollution. If you must drive, consider carpooling with other families.

TIP #5 - If you are throwing a Halloween party, use dishes, utensils and tablecloths that can be washed and reused instead of thrown away. Also use recycled and recyclable materials to make decorations and use household items—like white sheets to make ghosts—that can be returned to normal use after the party.

TIP #6 - Put your old jack-o-lanterns in your compost bin. If you don't already compost, this is a good time to start. With falling leaves and other food waste, you can create good soil for your garden to grow more pumpkins for next year. For information on composting, visit [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/composting.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/composting.shtml).

TIP #7 - Reuse Halloween decorations each year. Properly store your decorations so they can be used next year, just like you would your Christmas and Hanukkah decorations.

TIP #8 - Properly dispose of candy wrappers. Make sure your children throw away their wrappers when they get home, or to throw them in trash cans along their trick-or-treating route. Take an extra bag to pick up litter along the way.

TIP #9 – Remember to conserve energy by turning off any electrical decorations. This will not only save on your electric bill, but also prevent any possible fire hazards in your home.

#### **RECYCLING INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE**

- The Environmental Service Department's (ESD) recycling web page: [www.sdrecyclingworks.com](http://www.sdrecyclingworks.com)
- ESD also has Recycling Specialists on staff that can provide technical assistance and advice on how to set up a successful recycling program in your home, office or organization. Call 858-694-7000.

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